

# FOR YOUTHFUL READERS



## A SHARK SENTINEL.

BY C. F. HOLDER.

The recent ordering of troops to the Dry Tortugas, Fla., recalls a curious incident in which a boy prevented the escape of prisoners and performed a humanitarian act, which was greatly misunderstood at the time and aroused no little comment in the press of the day.

At the time mentioned the island of Dry Tortugas was used as a great prison, and bounty jumpers, deserters and prisoners of all classes were confined there to the number of several thousands.

The island is but 12 acres in extent, surrounded by a wide and deep moat, which made it almost impossible for prisoners to escape, yet every time a vessel came into the harbor one or more men would make the attempt. Obtaining ropes they would lower themselves into the moat from a porthole, swim across the ditch and try to pass out the tide gate, despite the fact that sentries paced up and down on every beach and kept watchful vigilance, with orders to fire and call the guard. Several prisoners did escape the sharp eyes of the guards by swimming and dodging under water when passing the sentinel. Reaching the tide gate, they would dive again, swim to the channel, and in the darkness climb aboard the steamer lying there and conceal themselves.

But all was not successful. Several unfortunate men dropped into the ditch from the rope and were found drowned the following morning. The guards were doubled and everything done to

toward inshore, the huge fish beating the water with its tail, and at one time taking the cutwater in its jaws and snaking it as a cat would a mouse.

Finally, after several hours of hard work, and with the assistance of many men, the shark, which was at least 12 feet in length, was hauled over the tide bridge. The person's son cut out the hook, and with a swirl of its big tail the monster went dashing away.

This shark was dubbed the provost marshal by the prisoners, and that it inspired a wholesome dread in their minds was soon evident. But it was a perfectly harmless creature. It swam round and round, very near the brick wall, with one eye cast up, pathetically.

It presented a formidable spectacle, moving slowly along, and no one dared enter the water, consequently no casualties were recorded. But it was not long before an article appeared in a northern paper, calling attention to the terrors of the Dry Tortugas, where, among other tortures, the Union officers used man-eater sharks to capture

era club. Kate had a camera, and Eva Payne asked her to join the club, but when Eva told her it was \$5 for the initiation fee, she said: "O! And she didn't join. Then there was a girl in the record: 'K. S.—Kant' Spend.' Miss Chase didn't allow grinds in the paper, either, but that got in somehow. Kate said she had a camera, and she had to be, and now you know why. I don't believe she cared what you thought, for she was above it, but I cared. Kate Stilwell is the best girl in this school, and the noblest and the dearest; and I've broken my promise to her not to tell, and I don't care. I will tell. And oh, girls! And then Phoebe Williams sat down and dropped her head in her hands and burst out crying."

Laura Holcomb's own eyes were rather wet; so, indeed, were the eyes of her sympathizing listeners. "And what did you girls do?" Becky Purcell asked, eagerly.

"We were all wild about the general's reception. The evening was fine, and Miss Chase, an old school friend, and he was going to pass through town on his way to Washington, and he had come on a special train, and he was going to stay at the hotel, and he was going to be with us girls, and tell us some war stories; and of course, Miss Chase was going to make a fine affair of it. It was in the winter, when the talk about war was growing all the time, and the girls were all crazy about meeting the general."

"Almost every girl was going to have something new for that reception. Sara Decker had a beautiful pink silk waist, and I had a new dress, and lots of the girls did. Sara was determined to know what Kate Stilwell was going to do about it, and finally she asked her, and Kate came in."

"What about the reception, Kate?" said Sara. "What are you going to wear?"

"My white dress," said Kate; "the one with the roses; you've seen it, and she picked up her dumb-bells as cool and unconcerned as anything."

"Sara didn't say anything; she just looked at me."

"We did all we could to help Miss Chase to make it a lovely affair. There was a great big committee on arrangements, about 15 of us. I was in it, and Sara and Louise, and Kate Stilwell and I, and others. Oh, yes—and Phoebe Williams; Ruth Morrill nominated her."

"Louise and Sara roomed together, and a week before the reception they invited the whole committee to their room to talk things over, and to have a spread—what we called a spread; we had cake and olives and oranges, and we made fudge. They borrowed tables from the kitchen, and every girl had a place, and just for fun they had a 'favor' for every girl. They were paragraphs and verses that they'd cut out of old newspapers and books, and we read them out loud. In turn. They were hits, mostly; Ruth Morrill is a great chatter-box, and hers was a verse about a gentle, quiet child that never talked any."

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"One or two girls laughed, but I think we felt scared a little. I did, I know, and I tried to think of something to say to smooth it over if I could. But I didn't have time to say anything. Somebody jumped up all at once, and I looked round and saw Phoebe Williams standing up. She didn't look warm, like Kate; she looked pale, and we all knew something was going to happen, and it was as still as it could be."

"I'm going to speak out," said she. "I can't bear it any longer. You girls have been so kind to me, and you've hints about Kate Stilwell being stinky, and I've stood it as long as I can. No, don't stop me. Kate—I must and I will say it."

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"Why, then, is a sort of mania, her being so stinky, isn't it?" said Louise. "Something like kleptomaniac."

"I tried to stand up for her some, but I couldn't say much, for you know, I'd seen that same thing in her myself, and I thought if she was really a rich girl it was just horrid."

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"What's her father's name?" said she.

"Milo," said Phoebe.

"He owns the paper mills in Hawley, doesn't he?" said Louise.

"Yes," said Phoebe.

"Well, Kate said Louise, as we went along, then she must be richer than Ruth Morrill; and I think how Ruth is, just as she was coming here, and what anybody thought. Of course, if we had thought she was stinky for the same town, of course; but Phoebe Williams swore by Kate Stilwell, anyhow; anybody could see that."

"Well, Kate got up a perfect reputation for stinkiness. She was so open about it. She didn't seem to care if everybody knew she was stinky, nor what anybody thought. Of course, if we had thought she was stinky for the same town, of course; but Phoebe Williams swore by Kate Stilwell, anyhow; anybody could see that."

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"What's her father's name?" said she.

## IRRIGATION IN OLD EGYPT.

Description of the Great Nile Dam, That Will Cost Twenty-five Millions.

(Special Correspondence.)

London, July 29.—After some centuries of discussion and planning the Nile is at last to be dammed. The plans have been completed for some time and as soon as the season's floods have subsided the contractors will have several hundred men busy on the work at Assouan. The man who is to have the direction of the work, which will rank as the greatest irrigation scheme ever attempted and one of the engineering feats of the age, is Sir Benjamin Baker, whose name is already associated with many great enterprises. Sir Benjamin is himself ready to start for Assouan, where he will assume personal direction of the undertaking. In discussing the matter a few days ago, he hazarded the prediction that the beginning of the 20th century the first steamer would pass through the locks, and that, on its way to the upper Nile, whatever difficulties may be encountered in the work, it probably will not take so long as it has for the khedive and his French advisers to make up their minds to sanction it.

In the industrial world the big enterprise is attracting a great deal of attention, but to the Nile, which is the chief interest of the dam is not in the engineering problems and possibilities when so many interests depend upon the stability and endurance of the work. It will be a splendid thing to look at—stretching a mile and a quarter from shore to shore, of compact granite, a huge mass 70 feet high at its base, and its crest 320 feet above the lowest water level of the river below the cataract.

A carriage road, 30 to 40 feet wide, will be driven across it from the east to the west bank of the Nile; and on its western side will stretch a chain of locks, leading from the upper to the lower river. The locks will be 150 feet long each, capable, therefore, of taking a good-sized steamer, and will be of an average height of 50 feet. The archipelago of islands will disappear, the tops of the hills on the larger islands will just appear above its surface, and the temples of Philae will rise out of the water, but the Nile, instead of appearing as now when tourists visit it at Low Nile—insignificant and in a hol-low—

ITS IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT.

To the Egyptian administrator the chief concern is in the money value of the new dam to the country, and in this respect it makes a most favorable showing. In a land which, in Sir Gardner Wilkinson's phrase, "positively screams for water," its worth can scarcely be overestimated. With its

supplementary dams and barrages at Assouan and near Kashehah, it will increase the present cultivated area of Egypt by 600,000 acres and bring under constant cultivation the whole of that proportion of the 5,000,000 acres in Egypt which is now under yearly irrigation only. The supply of water needed for this purpose, according to Mr. Willcock's calculation, is 3,500,000,000 of cubic centimetres, flowing at a maximum rate of 630 metres a second over the whole line of district affected. The monetary advantage of the scheme may be expressed by saying that the direct annual return to the state will be £250,000; that the increased value of land in Egypt will be £25,000,000; that the increase in annual produce will be £16,612,000, and to annual rent £3,300,000. These estimates leave out of account the increased value of lands and crops owing to increased facilities of navigation. Sir Benjamin Baker's view is expressed in the words: "The profit resultant from the works is in itself so great, and so certain, as to be practically certain, as the value of the crops will be increased about 25 per cent per annum over the whole area affected."

COST OF THE ENTERPRISE.

The cost of the dam itself was calculated by Sir William Garston and Sir Benjamin Baker to be some £1,900,000, and this was an estimate that has been practically accepted by the contractors, Messrs. John Aird. But to this estimate have to be added the cost of supplementary dams and barrages at Assouan and at the other point which Sir Benjamin Baker has indicated, 15 miles nearer to Cairo. The exact form of these dams is not yet determined, but the barrages which will be part of them will be similar to that at Kashehah already existing. The modern masonry barrages are the substitute for the old time "khalees" or dams of earthwork, which were cut or breached at the top when the water was high enough, and which were dangerous and wasteful. The barrage at Kashehah already existing is 375 yards long and practically a wall of masonry running along the side of the river and pierced with 60 double arches. Each of

the arches is fitted with an upper and lower iron gate, and without going into detail we may say that they permit the rising Nile to overflow into a reservoir which is 300 yards long and has a depth of three feet. This lake feeds the irrigation canals.

This, in brief, gives a bird's eye view of the great scheme which is to give the Nile a new lease of life. It is a work which will not be far short of £5,000,000, which is to be paid by the Egyptian government in yearly instalments extending over 20 years, and not beginning to pay until the receipts from the reservoir afford a margin of profit. It is a novel arrangement, but the financiers have risen manfully to meet the demand, and the Nile will be able to run riot in its accustomed freedom.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed. It is not a case of cure, but of prevention. We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free. F. H. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.